



**TRIAL DEFENSE SERVICE
FORT KNOX FIELD OFFICE
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY 40121**

PERSONNEL CONTROL FACILITY

Helpful Telephone Numbers:

Commander	- DSN 464-6247 Comm (502) 624-
Inprocessing	- DSN 464-1558 (24 hour staffing) - DSN 464-7926 (24 hour staffing)
Legal (Chapter/Civil) (BCD/DD) NCOIC FAX	- DSN 536-3753 Comm (502) 626- - DSN 536-3755 - DSN 536-3744 - DSN 536-3760

The primary function of the Personnel Control Facility (PCF) at Fort Knox is to process Soldiers who are in a deserter status either because of one AWOL in excess of 30 days (Chapter 10) or more than one AWOL (Chapter 14). Additionally, they serve as a regional base for post-trial actions, tracking post-trial status and final actions on cases involving punitive discharges.

The Fort Knox Personnel Control Facility (PCF) processed over 1,650 deserters during the last 12 months. The standard procedure (STRESSING: there is no guarantee of this disposition for everyone) is for a deserter from basic and/or AIT is to return to Fort Knox and turn themselves in at the Military Police station. Permanent party Soldiers who desert from a CONUS unit can turn themselves in at Fort Knox; however, they are normally returned to the unit from which they departed. Soldiers deserting from overseas are evaluated on a case by case basis. The AWOL Apprehension section of the Military Police input returnees in the computer and take those who are being processed at the PCF to that unit. Other Soldiers are usually given provisional passes to return to their unit. Arrests are rarely made (unless the returnee appears to be a threat to themselves or someone else or they were pending a serious offense before they went AWOL, warranting pretrial confinement).

Soldiers assigned to the Fort Knox PCF are inprocessed. Here, they are read their rights before the inprocessing NCO begins the interview and they are given a copy of the Standard Operating Procedures. If they invoke their rights, the Fort Knox Trial Defense Service (TDS) is called and an appointment is made for them to speak with an attorney before any more inprocessing is completed. If they do not wish to invoke their rights, they can explain their situation to the inprocessing NCO and the background check with the unit and SIDPERS begins soon thereafter. Normally, again stressing NORMALLY, it takes approximately 24-72 hours for a returnee who has been AWOL over 30 days to be charged after they have completed inprocessing. At that point, the PCF prepares the charge sheet and a Chapter 10 request. The returnee then comes to the TDS for an explanation of their rights regarding a court-martial or submitting a Chapter 10, Request for Discharge in Lieu of Court-Martial. If the Soldier elects to

submit a Chapter 10, they sign the paperwork at the Trial Defense Service, and then they are usually allowed to go home on voluntary excess leave (they have to pay their own way home). If the Chapter 10 is processed and approved (the overwhelming majority of them are approved), the DD 214 is mailed to them at their excess leave address. If the Chapter 10 is disapproved, the returnee is subject to recall. The majority of the approved Chapter 10s are for an Other Than Honorable Discharge. However, the returnee can submit a statement for consideration by the chain of command and request a more favorable discharge. The more documentation they have to verify their extenuating circumstances, the more likely they will receive a more favorable discharge.

If the Soldier does not want to submit a Chapter 10 request and the command is convinced they should not be retained, they will have to wait at the PCF until their court-martial is held.

Note: Soldiers who have more than one AWOL, one of which is at least four days but none of which are for over 30 days, may be processed under the provisions of Chapter 14-12c, Commission of a Serious Offense, but will remain in the PCF longer in order to receive the mandatory physical and mental status evaluation before departing on excess leave.